

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-07
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /067 W
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R 101617Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0769
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1090

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, UR, AU
SUBJECT: MFA INTERPRETATION OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON
1955 STATE TREATY

REF: VIENNA 0795

1. WE REPORTED IN REFTEL THAT FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR HAD
TOLD JANUARY 31 PRESS CONFERENCE THAT 1955 STATE TREATY
WAS NOW UNREVISABLE, THAT ANY EFFORT TO GIVE AN ARTICLE
OF TREATY A NEW INTERPREATION WOULD BE MET WITH GREAT
SKEPTICISM BY ALL SIGNATORIES OF TREATY AND THAT TREATY
WAS IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF STATUS QUO IN EUROPE, GUARANTEED
IN HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

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2. WE HAVE CANVASSED NUMBER OF SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS

ON MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S
COMMENTS. NEAR UNANIMOUS COMMENTARY WAS THAT FOREIGN
MINISTER, WHO WAS APPOINTED TO CURRENT POSITION LAST
OCTOBER AND WHO, PRIOR TO THAT DATE, HAD FOR MANY

YEARS DEALT WITH LEGAL MATTERS IN CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE, IS STILL IN PROCESS OF BECOMING POLITICALLY SENSITIZED AND THAT HIS OBSERVATIONS ON TREATY WERE UNFORTUNATE BUT DO NOT REPRESENT ANY SHIFT IN AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT DISCUSSION WITH PRESS WAS BACKGROUND BRIEFING NOT REGULAR PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT NO RECORD WAS MADE OF DISCUSSION AND THAT PRESS HAD CARRIED GARBLED AND IN PART INCORRECT VERSION OF PAHR'S OBSERVATIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES, PAHR STATED THAT TREATY WAS UNCHANGEABLE "FOR TIME BEING" AND NOT FOR ALL FUTURE TIME AS WAS REPORTED BY PRESS. THIS TIME LIMITATION, IT WAS EXPLAINED, IS AIMED AT BLOCKING POSSIBLE YUGOSLAV ATTEMPT AT THIS JUNCTURE TO EXPAND ATTACKS AGAINST GOA ON TREATY BY NOT ONLY CHARGING AUSTRIA WITH NON-FULFILLMENT OF ARTICLE 7 (TREATMENT OF MINORITIES) BUT ALSO WITH VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 13 (BAN ON MISSILES). PAHR'S STATEMENTS THUS SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD, IT WAS SAID, AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND AS WELL AS UPROAR OVER LUETGENDORF'S JANUARY 5 INTERVIEW ON MISSILES AND CURRENT ARMS SALES CONTROVERSY. PAHR'S UNFORTUNATE CHOICE OF WORDS YAD AS MAIN PURPOSE EXCLUSION FROM FURTHER DEBATE AT THIS JUNCTURE OF STATE TREATY AND ITS VIABILITY. HIS OBSERVATION ON ALLEGED SKEPTICISM OF SIGNATORIES RE POSSIBLE REVISION OF TREATY SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD IN SAME VEIN, NAMELY, ENDING PUBLIC DEBATE ON TREATY.

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4. SAME MFA SOURCES EXPRESS SURPRISE OVER PAHR'S STATEMENT LINKING TREATY WITH HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND STATUS QUO IN EUROPE SINCE QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN ADDRESSED IN MFA AND HAS NOT COME UP, AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, IN ANY OTHER GOA FORUMS. SPECULATION IS THAT PAHR MAY HAVE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE DETENTE AS CONTINUING PROCESS (GOA HAS CONSISTENTLY CLAIMED THAT EAST/WEST DETENTE BEGAN WITH SIGNATURE OF 1955 STATE TREATY).

5. SINCE PAHR'S OBSERVATIONS ON STATE TREATY TOUCH ON VERY BASIS OF AUSTRIA'S STATUS, INDEPENDENCE, AND FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION, WE ANTICIPATE PRESS AND OPPOSITION PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT EVENTUALLY QUESTIONING PAHR FURTHER ON HIS VIEWS AND INTENTIONS. FOR THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, THE IMMEDIATE, NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS HAS DIED DOWN. MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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